NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION LETTER

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STATUS OF CANNERS' CODE

The situation with respect to the code for the canning industry is explained in a circular letter sent to all canners on December 21. The National Canners Association has been pressing for a hearing before the Agricultural Adjustment Administration but has been advised that there is a strong probability that the code will be transferred from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to the National Recovery Administration. This has caused further delay in setting a date for the hearing, especially in view of the fact that the National Recovery Administration now has before it for consideration a proposed master code for grocery manufacturers. The National Canners Association has filed formal protest against being brought under the provision of the grocery manufacturers' code.

It is hoped that the hearing on the canning industry code may be held previous to the convention, but should this prove impossible it will not be through any lack of effort on the part of the National Canners Association.

Whether or not jurisdiction over the canning industry code is transferred from the AAA to the NRA, marketing agreements will remain in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION

The annual convention of the National Canners Association, which opens at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago on January 15th, will be devoted principally to presentation and discussion of the subject now uppermost in the minds of all canners—the relation of the government to the industry's plans for operations in 1934.

Since the enactment of the National Industrial Recovery Act and the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the Association and its members have given much time and energy to the proposals for codes and marketing agreements. The national convention will afford an opportunity for the entire industry as there represented to participate in discussions, consider plans and take such action, as will be to the best interests of all concerned.

The opening session on Monday, which will be attended not only by canners but also by many others from the allied associations holding meetings in Chicago, will be devoted to a general

presentation of the subjects, while the section and commodity group meetings that are being scheduled will enable the various branches of the industry to discuss and work out their particular problems. No formal programs for the section and group meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday have been planned. Instead, they will be in the nature of round-table conferences, presided over by section chairmen and others to be designated.

To expedite action with reference to marketing agreements, and with the approval of Mr. J. W. Tapp of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, there will be a series of meetings of commodity group committees the week preceding the convention, starting on Thursday, January 11th. The members of these committees are being selected as arranged at a meeting of representatives of state canners associations held in Washington the week of December 4th. The preliminary meetings at Chicago, it is expected, will enable the various commodity groups to formulate their ideas and plans so as to ensure speedier action when the groups meet during convention week.

In addition to the section and group meetings, arrangements have been made for a conference on Wednesday of accountants of member firms, at which there will also be present members of the Association's Committee on Cost Accounting. This, too, will be a round-table conference and is expected to develop information and plans that will be very helpful to the Cost Accounting Committee in its work of preparing a uniform system of cost accounting that will enable canners to supply the information that may be required under a code or marketing agreement. Members of the Association are earnestly invited to have their accountants, or a representative from their accounting staff, in attendance.

Provision has also been made by which canners wishing to discuss raw products or technical canning problems with members of the Association's staff will have opportunity to do so.

Requests for room reservations indicate a large attendance, and because of the importance of the subjects to be considered, canners are urged to come to the convention prepared to participate in its work and to contribute their assistance in working out a constructive program for the industry in 1934.

CONVENTION RATE TICKETS ON SALE ONE DAY EARLIER

Arrangements have been made through which, it is expected, reduced-rate tickets for the annual convention in Chicago will be placed on sale one day earlier than announced in the Associa-

tion's circular letter of December 13th. This change is being arranged in order that canners planning to attend the preliminary meetings at Chicago beginning January 11 may secure the reduced rates.

When completed this arrangement will provide that reduced rate tickets will be on sale in a greater part of the territory from January 10th to 16th inclusive; in Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming they will be on sale from January 9th to 15th inclusive; in Arizona, Northern Idaho, British Columbia, Nevada, California, Oregon and Washington they will be on sale from January 7th to 13th inclusive; in Montana, Southern Idaho and Utah they will be on sale from January 8th to 14th inclusive.

EXTENSION OF PRESIDENT'S REEMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

An Executive Order extending the provisions of the President's Reemployment Agreement to May 1, as respects such employers as are not covered by approved codes, was issued on December 20 by President Roosevelt.

Because the agreement expiring December 31 is a contract and as such would require the consent of the employer to an extension, the Executive Order is in the nature of an offer to enter into the agreement for the further four-month period, acceptance of which offer the employer may indicate by display of the Blue Eagle if he had previously signed the agreement, or by signature if he had not signed previous to January 1.

The Executive Order further provides that on or after January 1 the display of the Blue Eagle by an employer theretofore entitled to it shall be deemed an acceptance of the extension, making the employer subject to the provisions and penalties of the Executive Order of October 14, 1933, prohibiting false representation of compliance with the President's Reemployment Agreement.

In other words, employers not covered by codes who have been entitled to the Blue Eagle will be required to accept extension of the President's Reemployment Agreement to May 1, or cease to display the insignia.

The text of the Executive Order follows:

"I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, pursuant to the authority vested in me by title 1 of the National Industrial Recovery Act, approved June 16, 1933, and otherwise, do hereby provide as follows and do hereby prescribe the rules and regulations hereinafter set forth which I deem necessary for carrying out the purpose of title 1 of said act:

"I hereby offer to enter into the President's employment agreement with every employer, insofar as he is not covered by an approved code of

fair competition, for a further period of four months from January 1, 1934, to April 30, 1934, or to any earlier date of approval of a code of fair competition to which he is subject.

"Employers who shall have already signed the President's Reemployment Agreement before January 1, 1934, may accept this offer of extension by display of the Blue Eagle on or after January 1, 1934. Employers who shall not have signed the President's Reemployment Agreement before January 1, 1934, may accept this offer of extension by signing the President's Reemployment Agreement.

"All substitutions and exemptions approved and all exceptions granted to particular employers before January 1, 1934, will apply to the President's Reemployment Agreement as so extended.

"Display of the Blue Eagle on or after January 1, 1934, by an employer who shall have signed the President's Reemployment Agreement prior to January 1, 1934, shall be deemed an acceptance of this offer of extension; and for the purpose of my Executive Order dated October 14, 1933, which among other things prohibits false representation of compliance with the provisions of the President's Reemployment Agreement, display of the Blue Eagle by any employer on or after January 1, 1934, shall be deemed a representation that he is complying with the President's Reemployment Agreement, as extended by this Executive Order.

"I hereby authorize the Administrator for Industrial Recovery to make such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary to supplement, amplify or carry out the purposes and intent of this Executive Order."

OVERTIME HOURS UNDER P. R. A. FOR INVENTORY WORK

Modification of the maximum hours provisions of the President's Reemployment Agreement to permit necessary overtime work in connection with year-end inventories has been approved by National Recovery Administrator Hugh S. Johnson.

The modification will permit employers operating under the Agreement to work employes such time during the next two weeks as may be necessary to complete inventories, provided the employes are paid time and one-half for the overtime hours.

General Johnson acted on the recommendation of the National Compliance Board which pointed out that provisions for inventory periods found in most permanent codes were not included in the original President's Reemployment Agreement. Unless an exception was made, the Board declared, many employers would be subjected to unnecessary inconvenience. The exception, in part, reads as follows:

"For the purpose of taking a calendar year-end inventory, any employer subject to the President's Reemployment Agreement may employ any employee during two consecutive weeks after the date hereof, any number of hours necessary to complete such inventory, provided each employe so employed is paid at least time and one-half for all hours worked in excess of the maximum hours per day or week specified for such employe by the President's Reemployment Agreement or approved substitution.

TARIFF RAISED ON TUNA AND SARDINES

The Tariff Commission announced on December 15th that the President had approved the findings of the Tariff Commission with respect to fish packed in oil (or in oil and other substances), dutiable at 30 per centum ad valorem under Par. 718(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930.

The Commission's report specifies (1) an increase in the duty on tuna from 30 per cent to 45 per cent; (2) an increase in the duty on other fish packed in oil, when of a value not exceeding 9 cents per pound, including the weight of the immediate container only, from 30 to 44 per cent; and (3) no change in the present duty (30 per cent) on other fish in oil, when valued at more than 9 cents per pound. Japan was found to be the principal competing country for tuna packed in oil and Norway for other fish packed in oil.

The findings of the Commission are contained in a report on the investigation made under the provisions of section 336 of Title III Part II of the Tariff Act of 1930 in response to several applications received from domestic packers of tuna and sardines requesting an increase in the duty on these commodities. The cost study in this investigation was limited to tuna and to sardines, packed in oil. Sardines constitute about 94 per cent of domestic production and about 91 per cent of imports of all fish, except tuna, packed in oil or in oil and other substances.

Production in the United States of fish in oil is restricted to tuna, sardines, smoked salmon, and antipasto. Domestic production of antipasto is a new development and only negligible quantities have been packed. Imports are confined to tuna, sardines, anchovies, antipasto, smoked salmon, and sundry fish specialties. Only tuna, and sardines valued at 9 cents or less per pound, will be subject to the new rates of duty.

The domestic production of tuna packed in oil is confined to California (about 95 per cent of the total) and Hawaii. The California production reached a peak of 45,000,000 pounds in 1930. In each of the years 1931 and 1932 it was in the neighborhood of 28,000,000 pounds. Statistics of imports were not available prior to 1931 but were known to be insignificant. In 1931, however, they amounted to 935,000 pounds and in 1932 to 5,945,000 pounds, being equal in the latter year to about 22 per cent of domestic production. Imports are principally from Japan, with a small quantity from Mexico. The tuna-packing industry is a new one in both of these countries.

The domestic production of sardines packed in oil is in the States of Maine and California, with Maine producing about 96

per cent of the total pack. The record pack for Maine was in 1904 when 69,278,000 pounds of sardines were canned. The smallest pack since 1898 was put up in 1932 and amounted to 11,258,925 pounds. Between 1904 and 1932 the pack ranged from 19,075,000 pounds in 1931 to 66,511,000 pounds in 1909. In California for the years 1923 to 1931 the pack ranged from 634,000 pounds in 1923 to 1,685,000 pounds in 1924 and averaged 872,000 pounds.

Imports of sardines come principally from Norway. Of the 42,000,000 pounds entered for consumption in the United States in 1932, about 70 per cent came from Norway, 25 per cent from Portugal, and 5 per cent from other countries. In Norway the leading centers of production of canned sardines are Stavanger, Bergen, and Haugesund.

Commissioner Page declined to sign the report of the Tariff Commission on two grounds. First, he maintained the costs as computed were for a period that could not be regarded as representative; and, second, the increase of duty owing to circumstances which he points out in his opinion was more likely to be hurtful than helpful to American trade.

The changed rates of duty will take effect January 13, 1934.

A limited number of mimeographed copies of the report are available from the Tariff Commission. A printed edition will be issued later.

APPROVES MARKETING AGREEMENT FOR CALIFORNIA OLIVE CANNERS

Secretary Wallace on December 9th approved a marketing agreement for California olive canners and signed a license to enforce its terms. Both the agreement and license became effective December 13 at 12:01 a. m.

The license will apply to any person in California engaged in the business of canning olives and marketing canned olives in interstate or foreign commerce. It establishes minimum prices which shall be paid producers for the 1933 crop, and minimum prices to distributors.

CALIFORNIA-ARIZONA AND FLORIDA CITRUS AGREEMENTS APPROVED

Marketing agreements for oranges and grapefruit for the California-Arizona region and for Florida, covering the majority of the interstate shipments of these fruits, have been approved by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace after being signed by a majority of the shippers in each region. Licenses making the provisions of the agreement mandatory upon all

shippers in the regions affected were signed at the same time, the agreements becoming effective immediately, the licenses at 12:01 A. M. on December 18. The agreements contain identical provisions for a national citrus stabilization plan which includes national proration.

Under the national stabilization plan, to which Texas and Puerto Rico citrus fruit growers also may adhere if and when marketing agreements are made effective for those regions, national control of citrus fruit shipments will be possible.

SPRAY RESIDUE TOLERANCES FOR 1934 CROP

A tolerance for lead that may be present as spray residue on fruit to be harvested in 1934 was announced December 11, by the Acting Secretary of Agriculture. Action under the Federal Food and Drugs Act will be taken against all shipments of fruit that contain in excess of 0.019 grain of lead per pound. The tolerance of 0.01 grain per pound previously set for fluorine and for arsenic will remain in force for the 1934 crop.

FROZEN AND PRESERVED FRUITS IN COLD STORAGE

The following table shows the holdings of fruit in cold storage reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as of December 1, also a comparison with last year and with a five-year average:

	Dec. 1 1933	Dec. 1 1932	5-year average
Apples:			
Barrels	893,000	1,349,000	1,994,000
Boxes	13,791,000	14,852,000	17,131,000
Baskets	8,576,000	10,533,000	7,993,000
Pears:			
Boxes	1,273,000	1,472,000	1,604,000
Baskets	132,000	129,000	89,000
Frozen and preserved fruits (pounds)	61,143,000	79,651,000	76,703,000

CENSUS OF AMERICAN BUSINESS

The preliminary work of planning for the forthcoming Census of American business is nearing completion, according to the Director of the Census, and the 16,000 supervisors and enumerators are expected to begin their duties in every section of the United States shortly after the advent of the New Year.

This census proposes to cover all establishments engaged in retailing, wholesaling in its various forms, service businesses of all kinds, amusement businesses, and hotels. It excludes agriculture, manufactures, construction, transportation, financial institutions, educational institutions and professional and personal services.

For the kinds of business included the report will cover particularly the volume of business done in 1933, the number of

people employed, amount of payroll and other expenses, stocks on hand to obtain the total value of saleable commodities at the various stages of economic distribution, and other data required to make the results comparable with the reports of the 1929 census of distribution.

One of the principal features of the new census is the employment data it will furnish for 1933. It is expected to demonstrate very clearly, month by month, the extent of the effectiveness of the recovery program as it affects the return to gainful employment of many thousands of workers in the trades and services to be covered. This part of the census will cover full and part time employment for every month of 1933.

Complete employment data resulting from the census will show relative employment opportunities in the different service trades which absorb about one-fifth of all persons gainfully employed in this country. The seasonal fluctuations in employment in this field from month to month will be an aid to seasonal planning for the individual business man and for the community.

Since this is the first time that service trades and amusements are included in a census, it will be possible to ascertain where the consumer's dollar is spent, in what kinds of stores, for what classes of merchandise, and how much of it is spent for service and amusement.

In order to facilitate the field work so that it will be completed by February 15, 1934, and to enable business men to supply the information readily, a simple questionnaire has been prepared. It contains eight questions that call for an accurate description of the business establishment canvassed, the kind of merchandise handled or service offered for sale, the principal functions performed, the employment given during the year 1933 to men and women on a part time or full time basis, salaries and wages paid to such employes, other operating expenses incurred, the net sales and other operating receipts of the business, stocks on hand at last inventory date, and the amount of business done on a credit basis.

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